BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT REPORT
Mirage Road Commercial Project

Rancho Mirage, Riverside County, California

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. (Wood) was contracted by Terra Nova Planning and Research Inc. to conduct a biological resources assessment and report for an approximately 60-acre project site located in the city of Rancho Mirage, Riverside County, California. The proposed project involves the development of approximately 28-acres located in the city of Rancho Mirage, Riverside County, California (Figure 1).

The city of Rancho Mirage requires a biological resources assessment in compliance with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP) (Coachella Valley Association of Governments [CVAG] 2020).

The CVMSHCP is a comprehensive regional plan that addresses the conservation needs of 27 species of native flora and fauna and 27 natural vegetation communities occurring throughout the Coachella Valley region of Riverside County, California. Permits for the CVMSHCP were issued by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) [now the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)] on September 9, 2008 and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on October 1, 2008 (TE104604-0). The CVMSHCP serves two primary purposes: Balancing environmental protection and economic development objectives in the CVMSHCP area and simplifying compliance with endangered species related laws. The CVMSHCP accomplishes this by conserving unfragmented habitat to permanently protect and secure viable populations of the covered species.

The covered species include plants and animals that are either currently listed as threatened or endangered, are proposed for listing, or are believed by an USFWS and CDFW appointed Scientific Advisory Committee, to have a high probability of being proposed for listing in the future if not provided protection by the CVMSHCP. The goal of the CVMSHCP is to meet the requirements of the state and federal endangered species acts, while at the same time allowing for the economic growth (land development) within the CVMSHCP area without significant delay or hidden costs. Under the CVMSHCP, mitigation is required from all new development projects occurring in the CVMSHCP area for the purpose of assembling a preserve system for the covered species and natural vegetation communities within areas identified as having high conservation value.

2.0 PROJECT LOCATION

The project site encompasses ±60-acres of land (Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN) 684-130-025, 684-130-026, and 684-130-027); however only 28-acres is proposed for development. Specifically, it is located within Section 11 and 12, Township 5 South, Range 6 East, as shown within the northwest quarter of the Rancho Mirage, USGS California quadrangle (Figure 2). The site is located at the southwest corner of Highway 111 and Mirage Road (Figure 3). Elevations on-site range from approximately 226 to 282 feet (69 to 86 meters) above mean sea level (ASML). The geographic coordinates for the approximate center of the BSA are 33.747181°North latitude and 116.422465°West longitude.

The site is generally bordered by paved roads, on the east by Mirage Road and on the north by Highway 111. The east boundary of the site is bordered by the W. Magnesia Falls Storm Channel. The geographic coordinates for the approximate center of the site are 33.747181°North latitude and -116.422465° West longitude.

3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION & BACKGROUND

3.1 Project Description

The proposed project site is ±28-acres within three parcels APNs 684-130-025, -026, and -027. The site is primarily an undeveloped, disturbed vacant lot that is adjacent to the southwest corner of Hwy 111 and Mirage Road. The proposed project is for a commercial development that includes the development of two of the three parcels (APN 684-130-026 and -027), a total of ±28-acres.

The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area lies directly adjacent to the proposed project site. There is an existing fence on the south boundary of the property, at the toe of slope. It was built by the city of Rancho Mirage several years ago, to keep Bighorn Sheep from coming down off the mountains. The proposed project will not impact the fence, it will remain in place, and no construction will occur beyond it.

An existing, fenced parking lot is present in the northwest portion of the site and the remaining of the proposed project site is a mosaic of disturbed desert scrub vegetation and Sonoran Creosote bush scrub vegetation.

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1 inch = 1 miles

0 0.5 1 Miles

wood.

Project Boundary

FIGURE 1

Regional Location
Biological Resources Assessment Report
Mirage Road Commercial Project
Rancho Mirage, CA.

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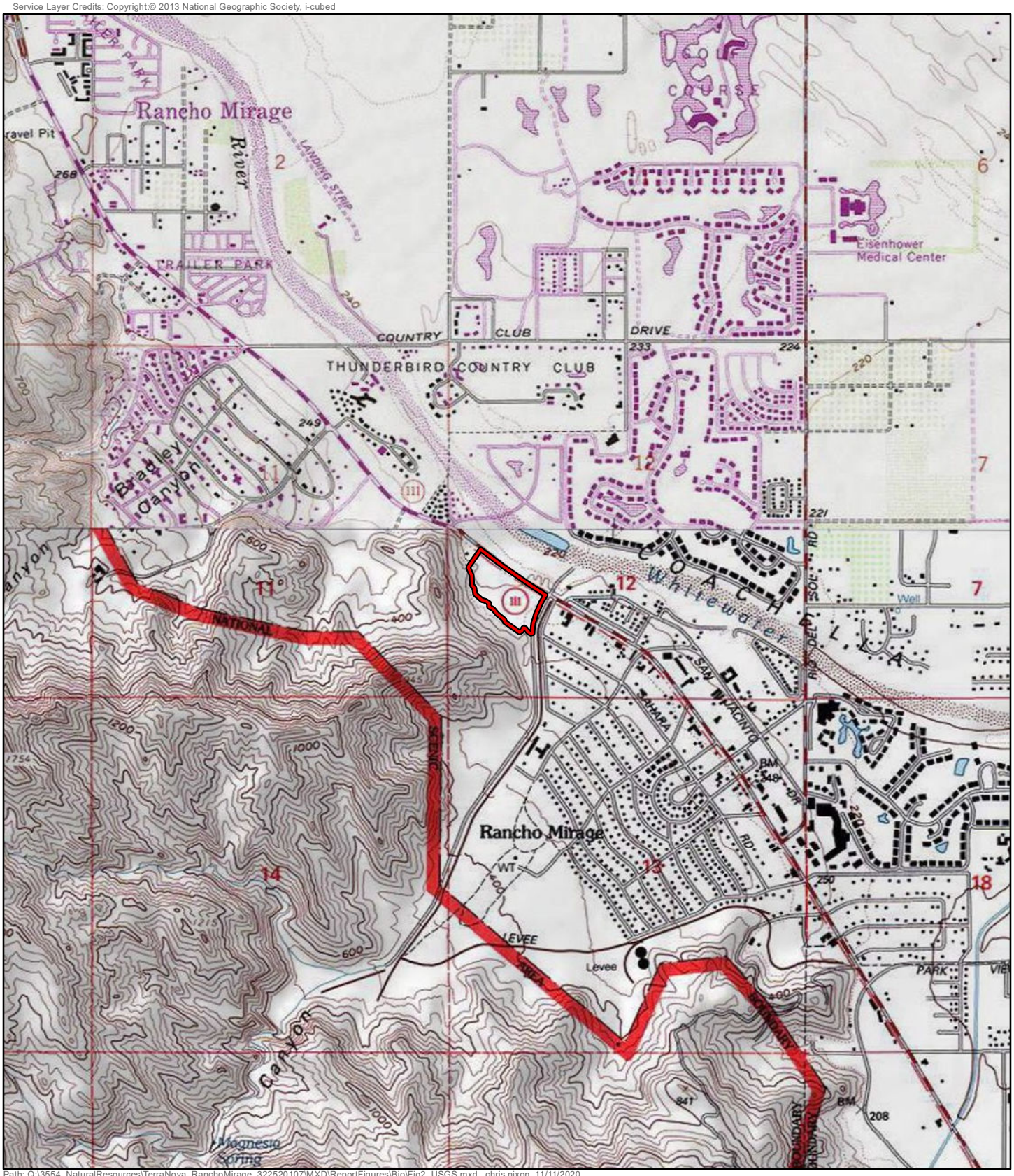

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1 inch = 2,000 feet

0 1,000 2,000 Feet

wood.

Project Boundary

FIGURE 2

Project Location on USGS Topo
Biological Resources Assessment Report
Mirage Road Commercial Project
Rancho Mirage, CA.

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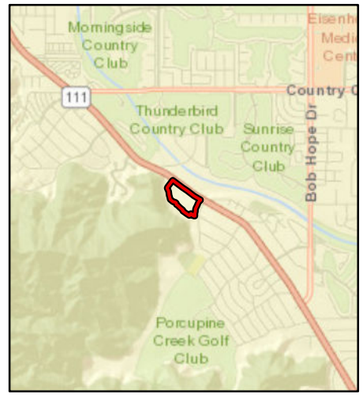

Project Boundary

1 inch = 200 feet

0 200 Feet

FIGURE 3

Project Vicinity
Biological Resources
Assessment Report
Mirage Road Commercial Project
Rancho Mirage, CA.

wood.

Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community
Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P,

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4.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION & BACKGROUND

4.1 Project Description

The proposed project site is ±28-acres within three parcels APNs 684-130-025, -026, and -027. The site is primarily an undeveloped, disturbed vacant lot that is adjacent to the southwest corner of Hwy 111 and Mirage Road. The proposed project is for a commercial development that includes the development of two of the three parcels (APN 684-130-026 and -027), a total of ±28-acres.

The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area lies directly adjacent to the proposed project site. There is an existing fence on the south boundary of the property, at the toe of slope. It was built by the city of Rancho Mirage several years ago, to keep Bighorn Sheep from coming down off the mountains. The proposed project will not impact the fence, it will remain in place, and no construction will occur beyond it.

An existing, fenced parking lot is present in the northwest portion of the site and the remaining of the proposed project site is a mosaic of disturbed desert scrub vegetation and Sonoran Creosote bush scrub vegetation.

5.0 METHODS

5.1 Literature Review

In preparation of the field assessment, a literature search was conducted to identify special status biological resources known from the vicinity of the proposed project site. In the context of, and for the purpose of this report, vicinity is defined as areas within a five-mile radius of the site.

The literature search included a review of the following documents:

- California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) RareFind 5 (CDFW 2020a)
- Special Animals List (CDFW 2020b)
- California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Inventory of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants of California (CNPS 2020)
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Web Soil Survey (USDA, NRCS 2019)
- United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5', *Rancho Mirage, Cathedral City, Palm View Peak, La Quinta, and Palm Springs, California quadrangles* (USGS 2020)

Scientific and common name nomenclature for this document follows standard reference sources: For plant communities, Sawyer et al (2009) and/or Holland (1986); for flora, Jepson eFlora (Jepson Flora Project 2020) and the USDA NRCS PLANTS Database (2020); for amphibians, reptiles, and mammals, CDFW (2016); and for birds, California Bird Records Committee (2020). Field Assessment

The field assessment of the proposed project site was conducted on 21 October 2020 by Wood senior wildlife biologist Lisa Wadley. The biological study area (BSA) included the proposed project parcels and a 500-foot buffer where accessible. On-site suitable habitats were assessed based on the presence or absence of habitat components (e.g., soils, vegetation, and topography) characteristic of the potentially occurring special status biological resources determined by the literature review. The BSA was surveyed on foot to record pertinent field data and current site conditions. All flora and fauna observed or otherwise detected (e.g., through vocalizations, presence of scat, tracks, bones and/or remains) during the course of this assessment were identified and recorded in field notes and are included in Appendix A. Dominant, co-dominant and co-occurring plant species observed were recorded in field notes and used in the determination of the on-site vegetation communities. Printed aerial photographs were used to aid in locating parcel boundaries and edges of plant communities. General weather and site conditions were also recorded at the beginning and end of the survey. Temperatures and wind speeds were recorded with a handheld Kestrel 2000 anemometer. Percent cloud cover was estimated.

6.0 RESULTS

6.1 Weather Conditions

Weather conditions during the assessment were mild for this area at this time of year. Skies were clear with no cloud cover. Temperatures ranged from 86 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Winds were calm with wind speeds of no greater than 1 mile per hour (mph).

6.2 Topography and Soils

The elevational range of the BSA is from approximately 226 to 282 feet (69 to 86 meters) above mean sea level (ASML). There is a rocky berm along the east boundary of the site. There is a small culvert within the northeast corner of the site that drains into the adjacent concrete West Magnesia Falls Storm Channel that parallels the east boundary of the site.

A review of the on-site soils (USDA, NRCS Soil Survey Staff 2019) found that four (4) soil types are mapped on-site (Figure 4). Soils mapped on the project site include:

- Myoma fine sand, 0 to 5% slopes;
- Coachella fine sand, 0 to 2 % slopes;
- Rock outcrops; and
- Carsitas gravelly sand, 0 to 9% slopes.

Most of the site is made up of Myoma fine sand and rock outcrops are in the southwestern corner of the site and a small section along the south boundary (behind the existing fence line). Soils and substrates on the BSA are typical of sandy desert soils and have low organic content. No hydric soils were observed on-site. Existing disturbed areas consisted of graded and compacted soil benches left fallow and where desert scrub remnants are emerging (Appendix B, Photographic Exhibits). Areas of illegal dumping were also observed. No sand dunes, hummocks, clay lenses, springs, seeps, or natural bodies of water were evident in the BSA.

6.3 National Wetland Inventory

Review of the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) (USFWS 2020) indicated that no blue-line streams (drainages), traverses the BSA. The West Magnesia Falls Storm Channel, a blue-line stream lies adjacent to the east boundary of the site (See Appendix B, Site Photographs). The concrete channel is fenced and will not be affected by development of the site.

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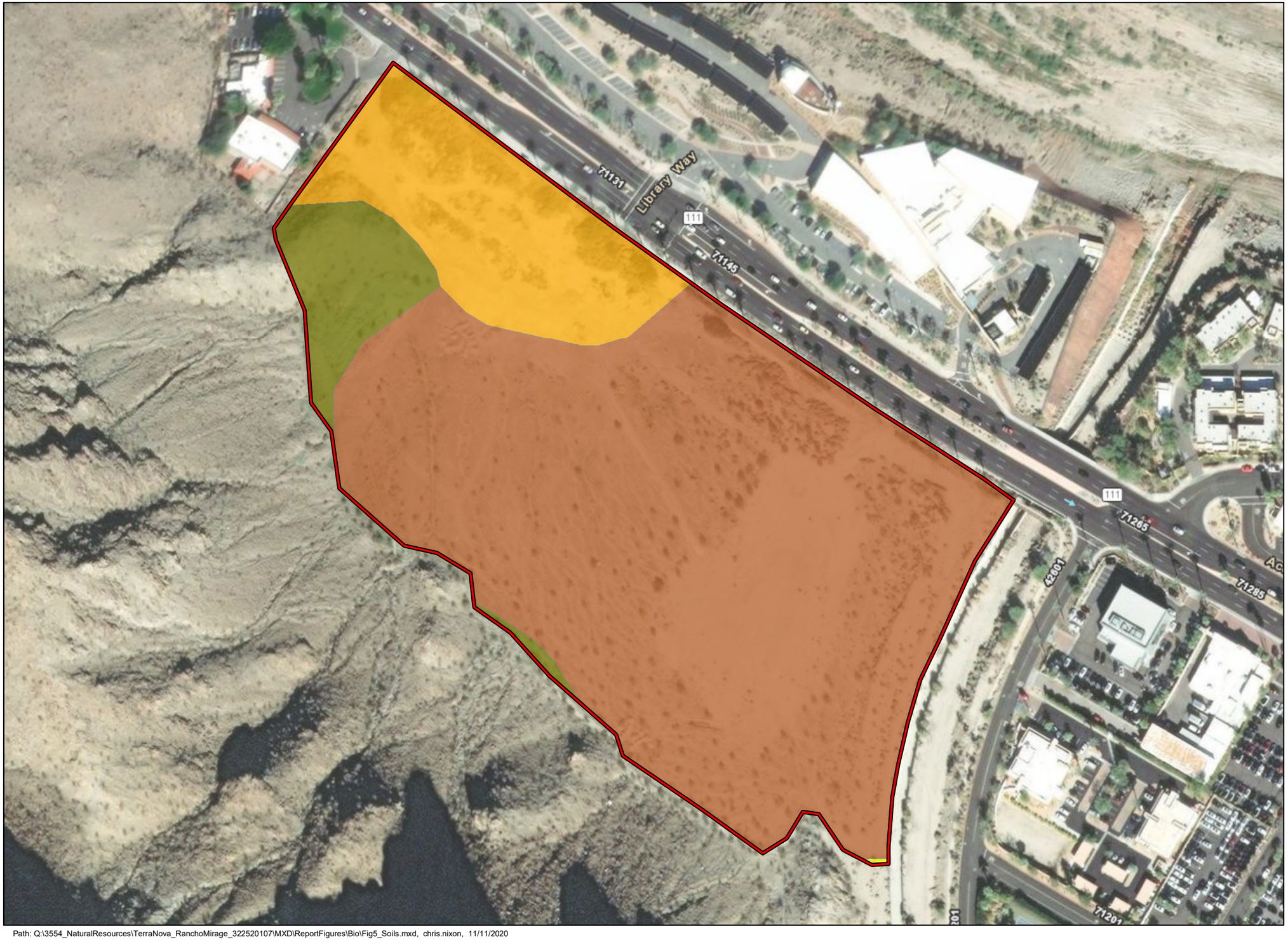

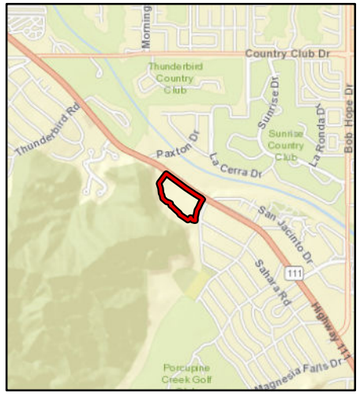

Project Boundary

Soil Types

- Carsitas gravelly sand, 0 to 9 percent slopes
- Coachella fine sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Myoma fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes
- Rock outcrop

1 inch = 150 feet

0 150 Feet

FIGURE 4

Soil Types
Biological Resources
Assessment Report
Mirage Road Commercial Project
Rancho Mirage, CA.

wood.

Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community
Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P,

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6.4 Habitat Description and Environmental Setting

The BSA is located within the Sonoran Desert biome in a portion of the Coachella Valley area of Riverside County, California. The surrounding area is characterized by business and residential development along Highway 111 and Mirage Road to the north and east, and natural open space to the south and west of the project site (e.g. the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area).

Portions of the proposed project site exhibit disturbance consistent with previously being graded (i.e. compacted soils, soil benches, and the existing unpaved parking lot). Most of the area is generally flat and sandy with some rocky substrates interspersed throughout the site and an earthen berm within the eastern ¼ of the site.

Paved roads bordering the BSA include Mirage Road to the east and Highway 111 to the north. With the exception of adjacent habitat fragmentation resulting from the development of the existing business and residential dwellings, paved and recreational trails; the open space within the BSA has received moderate levels of disturbance, as a result of grading, usage as a parking lot, off-road vehicular use, dumping, and anthropogenic "edge effects." These "edge effects" include vegetation clearing/weed abatement, establishment of dirt trails, trash deposition/accumulation and use by domestic pets (sign of domestic dogs observed).

An existing, fenced parking lot is present within the northwest portion of the site; and the remainder is a mosaic of disturbed vegetation (bare ground and disturbed Sonoran creosote bush scrub) and Sonoran creosote bush scrub (Figure 5). The dominant vegetation community within the BSA is Sonoran creosote bush scrub (Holland (1986)).

Dominant perennial shrub species observed included: creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), white bur-sage (*Ambrosia dumosa*), alkali goldenbush (*Isocoma acradenia*), cheesebush (*Ambrosia salsola*), and four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*). Perennial succulent species observed include silver cholla (*Cylindropuntia echinocarpa*) and pencil cactus (*Cylindropuntia ramosissima*). Dominant annual plant species observed included: desert Indianwheat (*Plantago ovata*), mustard (*Sisymbrium* sp.). Other annuals observed include Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), cheeseweed (*Malva parviflora*), Arabian schismus (*Schismus arabicus*), redstem filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), and cryptantha (*Cryptantha* sp.). indigo-bush (*Psorothamnus schottii)* and Mexican palo verde (*Parkinsonia aculeata*) were also observed within the BSA. No special status vegetation communities were observed within the BSA. A list of the plant species observed is appended to this report (Appendix A).

6.5 Wildlife

Wildlife directly observed and/or detected otherwise (e.g., scat, bones, prints, feathers, burrows, etc.) within the BSA was not abundant or diverse, possibly due to the time of day and/or weather (i.e. mid-morning and heat) weather present during the assessment. A total of ten (10) vertebrates were detected. Vertebrate fauna detected included: seven (7) birds and three (3) mammals. No fish, reptiles, or amphibians were detected. See Appendix B for a complete list of all wildlife species detected.

The seven (7) common species of birds observed on-site included: American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), and rock wren (*Salpinctes obsoletues*). Representative examples of other common bird species that are expected to occur include but are not limited to: loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), and Costa's hummingbird (*Calypte costae*).

Three (3) mammals were detected including desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), white-tailed antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus leucurus*). Other small mammals, particularly rodents, occur on the site as burrows were observed. The species that are present cannot be conclusively determined without a live-trapping focused survey. Although not observed, bats also are likely foraging over the site as suitable roosting habitat is present nearby within the mountains of the Santa Rosa / San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area. One larger carnivore, the coyote (*Canis latrans*), was detected. Others such as the, kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus),* and bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) were not detected but have the potential to occur in the BSA as well.

While no reptiles were detected, a wide variety of reptile species are expected to occur, however. These include, but are not limited to: common side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), desert banded gecko (*Coleonyx variegatus variegatus*), northern desert horned lizard (*Phrynosoma platyrhinos platyrhinos*), glossy snake (*Arizona elegans eburnata*), Great Basin gopher snake (*Pituophis catenifer deserticola*), and red racer (*Coluber flagellum piceus*).

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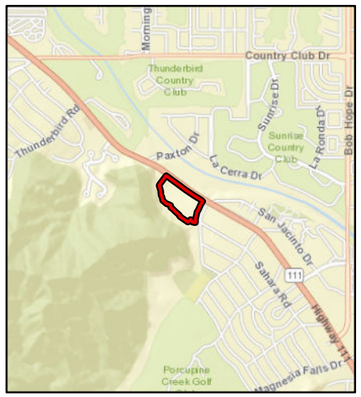

Project Boundary

Vegetation Communities

- Disturbed (Bare Ground)
- Disturbed Sonoran Creosote Bush Scrub
- Sonoran Creosote Bush Scrub
- Urban/Developed

1 inch = 150 feet

0 150 Feet

FIGURE 5

Vegetation Communities
Biological Resources
Assessment Report
Mirage Road Commercial Project
Rancho Mirage, CA.

wood.

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It should be noted that short, single-visit biological studies such as that conducted for this report are limited by timing: the seasonality of annual plants; the migratory habits of many birds; and the seasonal, fossorial and nocturnal habits of many invertebrates, reptiles and mammals. Knowledge of habitat associations, natural history, seasonality, and distribution is essential in the assessment of the potential for occurrence of the various sensitive plants and animals known to occur in the area. For these reasons, other common and special status species that were not observed on-site have potential to occur based on their geographic distribution, habitat preferences, and the regional location of the site. Tables 1 through 5 below summarize information on sensitive species known to occur in the vicinity of the BSA, including the status of each species based on the best available information and the collective expertise of Wood biologists.

6.6 Special Status Species

Plant or animal taxa may be considered "sensitive" or as having “special status” due to declining populations, vulnerability to habitat change, or because they have restricted ranges. Some are listed as threatened or endangered by the USFWS or by the CDFW and are protected by the federal and state Endangered Species acts and the NPPA. Others have been identified as sensitive or as special status species by the USFWS, the BLM, the CDFW, or by private conservation organizations, including the CNPS.
The review of the CNDDB, CNPS Online Inventory of Rare Plants, draft MSHCP documents, other biological reports from the vicinity and consultation with other experienced biologists/naturalists resulted in the identification of fifty-one (51) special status biological resources known to occur in the vicinity (within an approximate 1-mile radius) of the BSA. These included: twenty-nine (29) plants, four (4) amphibians and reptiles, ten (10) birds, seven (7) mammals, and one (1) sensitive habitat. These include federal and state-listed species, SSCs, BLM sensitive species and plant species designated as rare and/or imperiled by the CNPS. Tables 1 through 5 provide a complete list of the special status species, their associated legal status, habitat associations and their respective on-site occurrence potentials.

No special status species were observed during field survey on 21 October 2020.

Table 1. Special Status Plants

Species	Status	Habitat	Probability
Abronia villosa var. aurita **Chaparral sand-verbena**	F: None C: None CNPS: List 1B.1 Global rank: G5T2? State rank: S2 BLM: Sensitive USFWS: Sensitive	Sandy areas in chaparral and coastal sage scrub 80 to 1,600 meters (300 to 5,300 feet) elevation.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat (sandy areas in chaparral and coastal sage scrub) is not present on-site for this species.
Acmispon haydonii **Pygmy lotus**	F: None C: None CNPS: List 1B.3 Global rank: G3 State rank: S3	Perennial herb found in creosote bush scrub, rocky, and pinyon-juniper woodland habitats from 520 to 1,200 meters (1,700 to 3,950 feet) elevation.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat (rocky, creosote bush scrub, and pinyon-juniper woodland habitats) is not present on-site for this species, site below elevational range.
Almutaster pauciflorus **Alkali marsh aster**	F: None C: None CNPS: List 2B.2 Global rank: G4 State rank: S1S2	Perennial herb found in alkaline meadows and seeps from 200 to 800 meters (655 to 2,625 feet) elevation.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat (alkaline meadows and seeps) is not present on-site for this species, site below elevational range.
Ambrosia monogyra **Singlewhorl burrobrush**	F: None C: None CNPS: List 2B.2 Global rank: G5 State rank: S2	Perennial shrub found in sandy soils in chaparral and Sonoran Desert scrub from 10 to 500 meters (30 to 1,640 feet) elevation.	**Low:** Suitable habitat (sandy soils in Sonoran Desert scrub) is present on-site.
Astragalus hornii var. hornii **Horn's milk-vetch**	F: None C: None CNPS: List 1B.1 Global rank: G4G5T1T2 State rank: S1	Annual herb found around lake margins, alkaline meadow and seeps and playas at 60 to 850 meters (196 to 2,788 feet) elevation.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat (lake margins, alkaline meadows and seeps or playas) is not present on-site for this species.
Astragalus lentiginosus var. *coachellae* **Coachella Valley milkvetch**	F: Endangered C: None CNPS RPR: 1B Global rank: G5T1 State rank: S1 CVMSHCP = **Yes***	Sandy areas, typically in coarse sands in active sand fields, adjacent to dunes, along roadsides in dune areas, or along the margins of sandy washes, in Sonoran Desert scrub at 60 to 655 meters (200 to 2,150 feet) elevation. Known only from Riverside County in the Coachella Valley between Cabazon and Indio, and in the Chuckwalla Valley northeast of Desert Center.	**Low:** Suitable habitat (sandy areas in Sonoran Desert scrub) is present on-site. Nearest known occurrence 2.3 miles northeast of the project site.

Table 1. Special Status Plants

Species	Status	Habitat	Probability
Astragalus preussii var. *laxiflorus* **Lancaster milkvetch**	F: None C: None CNPS RPR: 1B.1 Global rank: G4T2 State rank: S1	Alkaline clay flats, gravelly or sandy washes, and along draws in gullied badlands, in chenopod scrub at about 700 meters (2,300 feet) elevation.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat (alkaline clay flats, gravelly or sandy washes, and along draws in gullied badlands, in chenopod scrub) is not present on-site for this species, site below elevational range
Atriplex parishii **Parish's brittlescale**	F: None C: CSC CNPS RPR: 1B Global rank: G1G2 State rank: S1 USFWS: Sensitive	Alkali meadows, vernal pools, chenopod scrub, and playas. Usually on drying alkali flats with fine soils; elevations 25 to 1,900 meters (80 to 6,200 feet). Plant collected once in California since 1974 (in 1993).	**Absent.** Suitable habitat (alkali meadows, vernal pools, chenopod scrub, and playas; drying alkali flats with fine soils) is not present on-site for this species.
Ayenia compacta **California ayenia**	F: None C: None CNPS: List 2B.3 Global rank: G4 State rank: S3 BLM: Sensitive USFWS: Sensitive	Rocky canyons and sandy and gravelly washes from 150 to 1,095 meters (500 to 3,600 feet) elevation. In California, occurs in Providence Mountains, Eagle Mountains, and west edge of Sonoran Desert.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat (rocky canyons) is not present on-site for this species, site below elevational range.
Caulanthus simulans **Payson's jewelflower**	F: None C: CSC CNPS RPR: 4 Global rank: G4 State rank: S4	Recently burned areas or disturbed sites such as streambeds in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, riparian areas, and grassland; western Riverside and San Diego Counties; elevations of 60 to 2,200 meters (200 to 7,200 feet).	**Absent.** Suitable habitat (streambeds in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, riparian areas, or grasslands) is not present on-site for this species.
Chorizanthe parryi var. *parryi* **Parry's spineflower**	F: None C: CSC CNPS RPR: 3 Global rank: G3T3 State rank: S2 BLM: Sensitive USFWS: Sensitive	Dry sandy soils in chaparral or coastal scrub at 40 to 1,750 meters (100 to 5,700 feet) elevation. Known only from Riverside and San Bernardino Counties and possibly extending into Los Angeles County.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat (dry sandy soils in chaparral or coastal scrub) is not present on-site for this species.

Table 1. Special Status Plants

Species	Status	Habitat	Probability
Chorizanthe polygonoides var. *longispina* **Long-spined spineflower**	F: None C: CSC CNPS RPR: 1B Global rank: G5T3 State rank: S3 BLM: Sensitive USFWS: Sensitive	Clay soils in chaparral, coastal scrub, meadows and seeps, valley, and foothill grassland at 30 to 1,450 meters (100 to 4,800 feet) elevation. Occurs in Riverside and San Diego Counties.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat (clay soils in chaparral, coastal scrub, meadows and seeps, valley, or foothill grassland) is not present on-site for this species.
Chorizanthe xanti var. *leucotheca* **White-bracted spineflower**	F: None C: CSC CNPS RPR: 1B Global rank: G4T3 State rank: S3 BLM: Sensitive USFWS: Sensitive	Sonoran creosote bush scrub and pinyon and juniper woodland 300 to 1,200 meters (900 to 4,000 feet) elevation.	**Absent:** Suitable habitat (Sonoran desert scrub or pinyon and juniper woodland) is not present on-site for this species.
Ditaxis clariana **Glandular ditaxis**	F: None C: None CNPS RPR: 2B.2 Global rank: G3G4 State rank: S2	Sandy soils in creosote bush scrub of the Sonoran and Mojave deserts below 465 meters (1,500 feet). Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, and Arizona and northern Mexico.	**Moderate:** Suitable habitat (sandy soils in creosote bush scrub of the Sonoran deserts) is present on-site for this species.
Ditaxis serrata var. *californica* **California ditaxis**	F: None C: None CNPS RPR: 3.2 Global rank: G3T3T4 State rank: S2?	Sandy washes and alluvial fans in Sonoran desert scrub at 30 to 1,000 meters (100 to 3,300 feet) in Riverside and San Diego Counties, and in Mexico.	**Moderate:** Suitable habitat (sandy soils in Sonoran desert scrub) is present on-site for this species.
Euphorbia abramsiana **Abrams' spurge**	F: None C: None CNPS RPR: 2B.2 Global rank: G4 State rank: S2	Annual herb found sandy soils in Sonoran Desert scrub in 5 to 1,310 meters (15 to 4,300 feet) elevation.	**Moderate:** Suitable habitat (sandy soils in Sonoran Desert scrub) is present on-site for this species.
Euphorbia arizonica **Arizona spurge**	F: None C: None CNPS RPR: 2B.3 Global rank: G5 State rank: S3	Occurs in creosote bush scrub, in sandy soils 50 to 300 meters (200 to 1,000 feet) in Sonoran Desert scrub in Riverside and San Diego (and Imperial?) Counties.	**Moderate:** Suitable habitat (sandy soils in Sonoran Desert scrub) is present on-site for this species.
Euphorbia platysperma **Flat-seeded spurge**	F: None C: None CNPS RPR: 1B.2 Global rank: G3 State rank: S1	Sandy places 60 to 950 meters (200 to 3,100 feet) in Sonoran Desert of Riverside, San Diego, Imperial, (and San Bernardino?) Counties.	**Moderate:** Suitable habitat (sandy soils in Sonoran Desert scrub) is present on-site for this species.

Table 1. Special Status Plants

Species	Status	Habitat	Probability
Imperata brevifolia **California satintail**	F: None C: None CNPS List RPR: 2B.1 Global rank: G4 State rank: S3	Wet areas and floodplains below 500 meters (1,600 feet) elevation.	**Absent:** Suitable habitat (wet areas and floodplains) is not present on-site for this species.
Linanthus maculatus (Gilia maculata) **Little San Bernardino Mountains linanthus**	F: None C: None CNPS RPR: 1B Global rank: G2T2 State rank: S2 CVMSHCP = **Yes***	Loose, well-aerated sand on wash-margin benches with few or no competing species and void of large shrubs or trees, in areas of desert dune, desert scrub, and Joshua tree woodland at 195 to 2,075 meters (600 to 6,800 feet) elevation. Loosely associated shrubs include creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), brittle bush (*Encelia farinosa*), burro bush (*Ambrosia dumosa*), cheesebush (*Hymenoclea salsola*) and desert catalpa (*Chilopsis linearis*). Not found in loose sands away from washes, nor in dense stands of weedy annuals. Known only from Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Known only from edges of washes associated with the San Bernardino Mountains (north and east sides), the Little San Bernardino Mountains, and the northern part of the Coachella Valley.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat (wash-margin benches) is not present on-site for this species. Nearest known occurrence is over 7 miles northeast of project site.
Nemacaulis denudata var. *gracilis* **Slender woolly-heads**	F: None C: None CNPS RPR: 2B.2 Global rank: G3G4T3? State rank: S2	Desert dunes, Sonoran desert scrub, and coastal dunes; below 400 (560?) meters (1,300 [1,800] feet) elevation. Threatened by urbanization near Palm Springs and along coast.	**Moderate:** Suitable habitat (Sonoran desert scrub) is present on-site for this species. Nearest (historical; 1942) recorded occurrence is 7 miles northeast of the site.
Petalonyx linearis **Narrow-leaf sandpaper-plant**	F: None C: None CNPS RPR: 2B.3 Global rank: G4 State rank: S3?	Perennial shrub found in sandy or rocky canyons in Mojavean and/or Sonoran desert scrub at 30 to 1,090 meters (90 to 3,576 feet) elevation.	**Absent:** Suitable habitat (sandy or rocky canyons) is not present on-site for this species.

Table 1. Special Status Plants

Species	Status	Habitat	Probability
Pseudorontium cyathiferum **Deep Canyon snapdragon**	F: None C: None CNPS RPR: 2B.3 Global rank: G4G5 State rank: S1	Annual herb found in rocky, Sonoran desert scrub below 800 meters (2,625 feet) elevation. Known in California only from the Deep Canyon area.	**Absent.** Site is not located in or adjacent to Deep Canyon area (known occurrence area). Nearest (historical; 1978) recorded occurrence is 7 miles southwest of the site.
Saltugilia latimeri **Latimer's woodland gilia**	F: None S: CSC CNPS RPR: 1B	Herb of rocky or sandy substrates in chaparral and Mojavean desert scrub at 400 to 1,900 meters (1300 to 6200 feet) elevation.	**Absent.** Site is below elevational range for this species.
Selaginella eremophila **Desert spike-moss**	F: None S: None CNPS RPR: 2B.2 Global rank: G4 State rank: S2S3	Shaded sites in gravelly soils and among rocks or in crevices from 200 to 900 (2,425?) meters (700 to 3,000 [8,000?] feet) elevation in Sonoran desert scrub.	**Absent:** Suitable habitat (gravelly soils among rocks or in crevices) is not present on-site for this species. Site is below elevational range for this species.
Senna covesii **Coves's cassia**	F: None S: None CNPS RPR: 2B.2 Global rank: G5 State rank: S3	Dry, sandy desert washes and slopes in Sonoran desert scrub at 200 to 1,070m (700 to 3,500 feet) elevation. In California, known only from Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties.	**Absent:** Suitable habitat (dry, sandy desert washes and/or slopes) is not present on-site for this species. Site is below elevational range for this species.
Stemodia durantifolia **Purple stemodia**	F: None S: None CNPS RPR: 2B.1 Global rank: G5 State rank: S2	Wet sand or rocks, drying river beds from 180 to 300 meters (600 to 1,000 feet) elevation in Sonoran desert scrub of Riverside and San Diego Counties.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat (wet sand or rocks, drying river beds) is not present on-site for this species. Site is below elevational range for this species.
Thelypteris puberula var. *sonorensis* **Sonoran maiden fern**	F: None S: None CNPS RPR: 2B.2 Global rank: G5T3 State rank: S2	Streams and seepage areas 50 to 610 meters (170 to 2,000 feet); from San Jacinto Mountains and San Gabriel Mountains west in Riverside, San Bernardino, and Los Angeles Counties.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat (streams and seepage areas) is not present on-site for this species.

Table 1. Special Status Plants

Species	Status	Habitat	Probability
Xylorhiza cognata **Mecca aster**	F: None S: None CNPS RPR: 1B CVMSHCP = **Yes***	Steep slopes of arid canyons in sandstone and clay in Sonoran desert scrub in Imperial and Riverside Counties at 20 to 300 meters (70 to 1,000 feet) elevation; known mostly from the Indio and Mecca hills of Riverside County.	**Absent.** Suitable habitat (steep slopes of arid canyons in sandstone) is not present on-site for this species.

* Species is to be conserved under the CVMSHCP, but is still protected by the MBTA and state code

Table 2. Special Status Amphibians and Reptiles

Species	Status	Habitat	Probability
Crotalus ruber **Red-diamond rattlesnake**	F: None S: None Global: G3G4 State: S3	Desert scrub, thorn scrub, open chaparral, and woodland; occasional in grassland and cultivated areas. Prefers rocky areas and dense vegetation. Morongo Valley in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties to the west and south to Baja California.	**Low** Marginal suitable habitat (desert scrub at the edge of rocky areas) is present on-site for this species. Nearest (historical; 1932) recorded occurrence is 3.2 miles southwest of the site.
Gopherus agassizi **desert tortoise**	F: Threatened S: Threatened Global: G3 State: S2S3 CVMSHCP = **Yes***	Various desert communities and habitats (Mojavean creosote bush scrub, Joshua tree woodland, saltbush scrub); washes, arroyos, bajadas, rocky hillsides, open flat desert	**Very Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (creosote bush scrub) is present on-site for this species.). However nearest recorded occurrence is 4.8 miles southeast of the site (.58 miles east of the Jct. of Hwy 74 and Mesquite Hills, Cahuilla Hills; 1997).
Rana aurora draytonii **California red-legged frog**	F: Threatened S: None Global rank: G2G3 State rank: S2S3	Streams with slow-moving water and deep pools; dense, shrubby riparian vegetation at pool edges. Foothills surrounding the Sacramento Valley and coastal streams from Marin County to northwestern Baja California; Believed to be extirpated between Los Angeles County and the Mexican border.	**Absent:** Suitable habitat (stream with slow-moving water and deep pools; or dense, shrubby riparian vegetation at pool edges) is not present on-site for this species.

Table 2. Special Status Amphibians and Reptiles

Species	Status	Habitat	Probability
Rana muscosa **Southern mountain yellow-legged frog**	F: Endangered S: Endangered Global rank: G1 State rank: S1	Ponds, lakes, and streams at moderate to high elevation; appears to prefer bodies of water with open margins and gently sloping bottom. Sierra Nevada Mountains and Transverse Ranges.	**Absent:** Suitable habitat (ponds, lakes, and streams) is not present on-site for this species.

* Species is to be conserved under the CVMSHCP, but is still protected by the MBTA and state code

Table 3. Special Status Birds

Species	Status	Habitat	Probability
Accipiter cooperii (nesting) **Cooper's hawk**	US: – CA: WL Global rank: G5 State rank: S4	Forages in a wide range of habitats, but primarily in forests and woodlands. These include natural areas as well as human-created habitats such as plantations and ornamental trees in urban landscapes. Usually nests in tall trees (20-60 feet) in extensive forested areas (generally woodlots of 4-8 hectares with canopy closure of greater than 60 percent). Occasionally nests in isolated trees in more open areas.	**Nesting: Absent** Suitable nesting habitat (tall trees in natural and ornamental settings) is not present on-site. **Foraging: Low** Species may potentially forage on-site.
Aimophila ruficeps canescens **Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow**	F: None S: WL Global rank: G5T3 State rank: S3	Steep, rocky coastal sage scrub and open chaparral habitats, particularly scrubby areas mixed with grasslands. From Santa Barbara County to northwestern Baja California.	**Nesting: Absent** Suitable nesting habitat (steep, rocky coastal sage scrub, and open chaparral habitat) is not present on-site or adjacent to the site. **Foraging: Absent** Suitable habitat (chaparral habitats) is not present on-site or adjacent to the site.

Table 3. Special Status Birds

Species	Status	Habitat	Probability
Aquila chrysaetos **Golden eagle** (nesting & wintering)	F: MBTA, BCC C: SSC Global: G5 State: S3 Other: BLM sensitive	Generally open country of the Temperate Zone worldwide. Nesting primarily in rugged mountainous country. Uncommon resident in Southern California.	**Nesting: Low** Suitable habitat (cliffs or rocky outcrops) is not present on-site but is present in adjacent mountains for this species. **Foraging: Low** Foraging habitat is present on-site for this species.
Athene cunicularia **burrowing owl** (nesting & wintering)	F: MBTA, BCC C: SSC Global: G4 State: S3 CVMSHCP = **Yes*** Other: BLM sensitive	Open, dry annual or perennial grassland, deserts & scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. Burrow sites essential.	**Nesting: Low** Marginally suitable habitat (burrows that would need to be modified and/or man-made structures) were observed on-site. **Foraging: Low** Suitable habitat present on-site.
Cypseloides niger **Black swift**	F: None S: None Global rank: G4 State rank: S2	Most frequently seen in the air feeding on tiny airborne insects. Usually seen near cliffs in mountainous regions; occasionally coastal. Nests in crevices in deep canyon cliffs near waterfalls or in sea cliffs. In California, breeds very locally in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Range, the San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto Mountains, and in coastal bluffs and mountains from San Mateo County south to probably San Luis Obispo County.	**Nesting: Absent** Suitable habitat (cliff ledges and rock ledges behind waterfalls) is not present on-site or adjacent to the site. **Foraging: Absent**
Falco mexicanus *(nesting)* **Prairie falcon**	F: MBTA, BCC C: SSC Global: G4 State rank: S4	Open country in much of North America. Nests in cliffs or rocky outcrops; forages in open arid valley and agricultural fields.	**Nesting: Low** Suitable habitat (cliffs or rocky outcrops) is not present on-site but is present in adjacent mountains for this species. **Foraging: Low** Foraging habitat is present on-site for this species.

Table 3. Special Status Birds

Species	Status	Habitat	Probability
Lanius ludovicianus **Loggerhead Shrike**	F: MBTA, BCC C: SSC Global: G4 State: rank: S4	Open country with short vegetation and well-spaced shrubs or low trees with spines or thorns. Occurs in wide variety of habitats: agricultural fields, pastures, old orchards, riparian areas, desert scrublands, Joshua tree woodlands, desert oases, savannas, prairies, golf courses, and cemeteries. Quite often seen along mowed roadsides with fence lines and utility poles. Preferred to nest in thorny shrubs and trees.	**Nesting: Absent** Suitable habitat (preferred nesting habitat (thorny shrubs or trees) is not present on-site but is present in adjacent mountains for this species. **Foraging: Low** Foraging habitat is present on-site for this species.
Polioptila melanura **Black-tailed gnatcatcher**	F: None C: None Global rank: G5 State rank: S3S4	Nests in wooded desert wash habitat containing mesquite, palo verde, ironwood, and acacia. May also occur in areas with salt cedar, especially when adjacent to native wooded desert wash habitat. Also occurs in desert scrub habitat in winter.	**Nesting: Absent** Suitable habitat (wooded desert wash habitat) is not present on-site or adjacent to the site. **Foraging: Low**
Toxostoma crissale **Crissal thrasher**	F: MBTA, BCC C: SSC Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S3 CVMSHCP = **Yes*** Other: BLM Sensitive	Dense thickets of shrubs or low trees in desert riparian and desert wash habitats. Southeastern California to Texas and northern Mexico.	**Nesting**: **Absent** Suitable habitat is not present on-site and/or adjacent to the site for this species. **Foraging**: **Absent** (same as above)

Table 3. Special Status Birds

Species	Status	Habitat	Probability
Toxostoma lecontei **Le Conte's thrasher**	F: MBTA, BCC C: None Global Rank: G4 State Rank: S3 CVMSHCP = **Yes***	Inhabits sparsely vegetated desert flats, dunes, alluvial fans, or gently rolling hills having a high proportion of saltbush (*Atriplex* spp.) or cholla (cylindrical *Opuntia* spp.), often occurring along small washes or sand dunes. Prefers dense thorny shrubs (most often saltbush or cholla) for nesting. Uncommon and local resident in low desert scrub throughout most of the Mojave Desert, extending up into the southwestern corner of the San Joaquin Valley. Breeding range in California extends from these areas into eastern Mojave, north into the Owens Valley and south into the lower Colorado Desert and eastern Mojave.	**Nesting**: **Absent** Suitable habitat is not present on-site and/or adjacent to the site for this species. **Foraging**: **Low** Suitable foraging habitat (desert scrub – saltbush, cholla, and other cacti species) present on-site for this species.

* Species is to be conserved under the CVMSHCP, but is still protected by the MBTA and state code

Table 4. Special Status Mammals

Species	Status	Habitat	Probability
Chaetodipus fallax pallidus **pallid San Diego pocket mouse**	F: None C: CSC Global: G5T3T4 State: S3S4	Desert border areas in desert wash, desert scrub, desert succulent scrub, and pinon-juniper woodlands. Sandy herbaceous areas usually in association with rocks or coarse gravel.	**Low:** Marginally suitable habitat (sandy herbaceous areas in desert scrub, with rocks or gravel) is present on-site for this species.
Corynorhinus townsendii **Townsend's big-eared bat**	F: None S: None Global rank: G3G4 State rank: S2 WBWG: H BLM: Sensitive	Requires caves, mines, tunnels, buildings, or other similar structures for roosting. May use separate sites for night, day, hibernation, or maternity roosts.	**Roosting: Absent** Suitable habitat is not present on-site, but is present in adjacent mountains and possibly buildings **Foraging**: **Low**

Table 4. Special Status Mammals

Species	Status	Habitat	Probability
Lasiurus xanthinus **Western yellow bat**	F: None C: None Global: G5 State: S3 WBWG: H	Occurs in southern California in palm oases and in residential areas with untrimmed palm trees. Roosts primarily in trees, especially the dead fronds of palm trees. Forages over water and among trees.	**Roosting: Absent** Suitable habitat (palm oases and/or untrimmed palm trees) is not present on-site for this species. **Foraging**: **Low**
Nyctinomops macrotis **Big free-tailed bat**	F: None C: None Global: G5 State: S3 WBWG: M	Inhabits rugged, rocky canyon country in southwestern United States.	**Roosting: Absent** Suitable habitat is not present on-site, but is present in adjacent mountains and possibly buildings **Foraging: Low**
Ovis canadensis nelsoni pop. 2 **Peninsular bighorn sheep DPS**	F: Endangered S: Threatened Global rank: G4T3Q State rank: S2	This population occurs on the eastern slopes of the Peninsular Ranges below 4,600 ft elevation. This DPS of the subspecies inhabits the Peninsular Ranges in southern California from the San Jacinto Mountains south to the US-Mexico International Border. Optimal habitat includes steep walled canyon and ridges bisected by rocky or sandy washes with available water. Habitats include alpine dwarf scrub, chaparral, or chenopod scrub.	**Absent:** Suitable habitat (steep walled canyon and ridges bisected by rocky or sandy washes, with available water or alpine dwarf scrub, chaparral, or chenopod scrub) is not present on-site for this species but is in immediately adjacent mountains.
Perognathus longimembris bangsii **Palm Springs pocket mouse**	F: None S: None Global rank: G5T1T2 State rank: S1S2 CVMSHCP = **Yes***	Prefers sandy soil for burrowing but has been found on gravel washes and stony soils. Preferred habitat includes desert riparian, desert scrub, desert wash and sagebrush habitats. Most common in creosote-dominated desert scrub.	**Low:** Suitable habitat (sandy soils, creosote-dominated desert scrub) is present on-site for this species. Nearest known occurrence is over five miles north and north west of the site.

Table 4. Special Status Mammals

Species	Status	Habitat	Probability
Xerospermophilus tereticaudus chlorus **Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel**	F: None S: None Global rank: G5T2Q State rank: S2 BLM: Sensitive CVMSHCP = **Yes***	Desert succulent scrub, desert wash, desert scrub, alkali scrub; will burrow in man-made levees; prefers open, flat, grassy areas in fine textured, sandy soil. Restricted to Coachella Valley.	**Low:** Suitable habitat (desert scrub, sandy soils, sandy, man-made berm) is present on-site for this species. Nearest known occurrence is over five miles northeast of the site.

Table 5. Special Status Habitat

Species	Status	Habitat	Probability
Desert Fan Palm Oasis Woodland	F: None C: None Global: G3 State: S3.2	A desert woodland alliance habitat found along canyon waterways.	**Absent** This habitat does not occur within or adjacent to the site.

Definitions of status designations and occurrence probabilities for Tables 1-5

Definitions of occurrence probability:

Occurs: Observed in the BSA by Wood personnel or recently reported by another credible source.

High:Observed in similar habitat in region by qualified biologists, or habitat on the BSA is a type often utilized by the species and the BSA is within the known range of the species.

Moderate:Reported sightings in surrounding region, or BSA is within the known range of the species and habitat on the BSA is a type occasionally used by the species.

Low:PPA/APE is within the known range of the species but habitat on the BSA is rarely used by the species

Very Low:Habitat is of marginal suitability and/or BSA is at the edge of species known range or distribution.

Absent:A focused study failed to detect the species, suitable habitat not present, or BSA is outside the geographic distribution of the species.

Unknown:No focused surveys have been performed in the region, and the species' distribution and habitat are poorly known.

Federal designations: (F = federal Endangered Species Act or USFWS designations)

END: Federally listed, Endangered
THR: Federally listed, Threatened
CAN: Candidate for Federal listing
MBTA: Migratory Bird Treaty Act
BGEPA: Bald & Golden Eagle Protection Act
BCC: Birds of Conservation Concern
BLM sensitive: Bureau of Land Management Sensitive
USFS sensitive: U.S. Forest Service Sensitive
None: No designation

***State designations*:** (C = California Endangered Species Act or CDFW designations)

END: State listed, Endangered
THR: State listed, Threatened
CAN: Candidate for State listing
RARE: State listed, Rare
FP: Fully Protected Species
SSC: Species of Special Concern
WL: Watch List Species

CDFW State (S) Rankings are a reflection of the overall condition of a resource throughout its range in California. The number after the decimal point represents a threat designation attached to the assigned rank:

S1 = Critically Imperiled. Less than (<) 6 Element Occurrences (EOs) OR < 1,000 individuals OR < 2,000 acres
- **S1.1** = very threatened
- **S1.2** = threatened
- **S1.3** = no current threats known

S2 = Imperiled. 6-20 EOs OR 1,000-3,000 individuals OR 2,000-10,000 acres
- **S2.1** = very threatened
- **S2.2** = threatened
- **S2.3** = no current threats known

S3 = Vulnerable. 21-80 EOs OR 3,000-10,000 individuals OR 10,000-50,000 acres
- **S3.1** = very threatened
- **S3.2** = threatened
- **S3.3** = no current threats known

S4 = Apparently Secure. Uncommon but not rare in the state; some cause for long-term concern.

S5 = Secure. Common, widespread, and abundant in the state.

SH = All known California sites are historical, not extant

T1 = Critically Imperiled

T2 = Imperiled

CDFW *Global (G) Rankings* are a reflection of the overall status of an element throughout its global range. Both Global and State rankings are represented with a letter and number score that reflects a combination of Rarity, Threat, and Trend factors, with weighting being heavier on Rarity than the other two.

Species or Natural Community Levels:

G1 = Critically Imperiled. At very high risk of extinction due to extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer populations), very steep declines, or other factors.

G2 = Imperiled. At high risk of extinction due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors.

G3 = Vulnerable. At moderate risk of extinction due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors.

G4 = Apparently Secure. Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors.

G5 = Secure. Common; widespread and abundant.

Subspecies Levels: Taxa which are subspecies or varieties receive a taxon rank (T-rank) attached to their G-rank. Where the G-rank reflects the condition of the entire species, the T-rank reflects the global situation of just the subspecies.

CVMSHCP designations

Yes: Conserved by the CVMSHCP

No: Not Specifically Conserved by the CVMSHCP

Considered: Considered, but not included in the CVMSHCP

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) designations:

Primary Categories

LIST 1A: Plants Presumed Extirpated in California and Either Rare or Extinct Elsewhere

LIST 1B: Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere

LIST 2A: Plants Presumed Extirpated in California, But Common Elsewhere

LIST 2B: Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, But More Common Elsewhere

LIST 3: Plants About Which More Information is Needed - A Review List

LIST 4: Plants of Limited Distribution - A Watch List

Subdivisions within Categories

0.1: Seriously threatened in California

0.2: Moderately threatened in California

0.3: Not very threatened in California

Western Bat Working Group (WBWG) designations:

H: High: Species which are imperiled or are at high risk of imperilment based on available information on distribution, status, ecology and known threats.

M: Medium: Species which warrant a medium level of concern and need closer evaluation, more research, and conservation actions of both the species and possible threats. A lack of meaningful information is a major obstacle in adequately assessing these species' status and should be considered a threat.

L: Low: Species for which most of the existing data support stable populations, and for which the potential for major changes in status in the near future is considered unlikely. There may be localized concerns, but the overall status of the species is believed to be secure. Conservation actions would still apply for these bats, but limited resources are best used on High and Medium status species.
P: Periphery: This designation indicates a species on the edge of its range, for which no other designation has been determined.

7.0 DISCUSSION

7.1 Discussion of the Special Status Species Tables

Of the fifty-one (51) special status species reported from the vicinity of the project site, thirty-three (33) are considered to be absent from the site due to a lack of suitable habitats and/or the location of the BSA outside of the species geographic range (Tables 1 through 5). These include: chaparral sand-verbena, pygmy lotus, alkali marsh aster, Horn's milk-vetch, Lancaster milkvetch, Parish's brittlescale, California ayenia, Payson's jewelflower, Parry's spineflower, long-spineflower, white-bracketed spineflower, California satintail, little San Bernardino Mountains linanthus, narrow-leaf sandpaper-plant, deep canyon snapdragon, Latimer's woodland gilia, desert spike-moss, Coves's cassia, purple Stemodia, Sonoran maiden fern, mecca aster, California red-legged frog, Southern mountain yellow-legged frog, Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow(nesting habitat), black swift, loggerhead shrike (nesting habitat), black-tailed gnatcatcher (nesting habitat), Crissal thrasher, Le Conte's thrasher (nesting habitat), Townsend's big-eared bat (roosting habitat), western yellow bat (roosting habitat), big free-tailed bat (roosting habitat), peninsular bighorn sheep DPS, and desert fan palm oasis woodland. These species will not be discussed further.

Eighteen (18) special status species known from the area have a low and/or moderate potential to occur (occupy and/or forage) within the project site and are discussed below.

7.1.1 Potentially Occurring Plant Species

Coachella Valley milk-vetch is federally listed as endangered and has a low potential to occur on the on-site. There is development (parking lot) in the northwest corner of the site, the remaining proposed project site is disturbed, and has evidence of prior grading. Therefore, marginally suitable habitat is present on-site for this species, however, the nearest historical (1912) recorded occurrence for the Coachella Valley milk-vetch is 2 ¼ miles northeast of the project site on Frank Sinatra Drive between Monterey Avenue and Bob Hope Drive, in the City of Rancho Mirage. Regardless of its status on the site, Coachella Valley milk-vetch is a "covered species" under the Coachella Valley MSHCP (CVMSHCP), and possible impacts would be mitigated through payment of the CVMSHCP fee.

There is a moderate potential for six (6) plant species to occur on-site based on presence of suitable habitat. The glandular ditaxis, California ditaxis, Abrams' spurge, Arizona spurge, flat-seeded spurge, and slender woolly-heads. Two (2) plant species, the singlewhorl burrobush and white-bracketed spineflower have a low potential to occur on-site based on presence of marginally suitable habitat. These species have the potential to occur in a wide variety of desert habitats including sandy soils in both creosote bush and in Sonoran desert scrub habitat. The afford mentioned plant species are listed as "covered species" under the Coachella Valley MSHCP, and possible impacts would be mitigated through the payment of the CVMSHCP fee.

7.1.2 Potentially Occurring Amphibian and Reptile Species

There is a very low potential for the federally/state threatened desert tortoise and low potential for the red-diamond rattlesnake to occur on the proposed project site. Marginally suitable habitat is present on-site for both species, however, the nearest recorded occurrence for the desert tortoise is 4.8 miles southeast of the project site at the junction of Highway 74 and Mesquite Hills, Cahuilla Hills. The nearest historical (1932) recorded occurrence for the red-diamond rattlesnake is 3 miles southwest of the site on the south side of Cathedral Canyon. Regardless of its status on the site, the desert tortoise is a "covered species" under the Coachella Valley MSHCP, and possible impacts would be mitigated through payment of the MSHCP fee.

7.1.3 Potentially Occurring Avian Species

There is marginally suitable habitat (man-made berm along eastern boundary) present on-site for the burrowing owl. Burrows observed on-site are from (presumable) smaller mammals, and not readily suitable for owl occupation.

The burrowing owl is not a listed species, but the species is protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (USFWS 2018) and CDFW code (California Legislative Information 2020), therefore surveys will be required where habitat is present. Burrowing owls are also sensitive to excessive noise and activities such as grading and operation of heavy equipment up to 500 feet away from occupied burrows may result in nest/burrow abandonment if/when such activities occur. No natural burrows with owls and/or owl sign was observed during the assessment, however, other small mammal burrows and man-made structures suitable for the owl were observed on-site, mammal burrows and man-made structures (i.e., drainpipes and drainage feature with rip rap material) suitable for burrowing owl occupation were also observed on-site and nearby. Burrowing owls are sensitive to excessive noise and activities such as grading and operation of heavy equipment up to 500 feet away and may cause abandonment of nearby nests or burrows if/when such activities occur. Therefore, impacts to burrowing owls potentially occurring nearby off-site must also be considered and a pre-construction take avoidance survey is recommended. Burrowing owl is a covered species under the CVMSHCP but is still protected from take. To avoid take of the burrowing owl outside of conservation areas the "CDFW recommends two take avoidance surveys. The first should occur between 14 and 30 days prior to ground disturbance and the second within 24 hours of ground disturbance" (CDFG 2012, CDFW 2014).

Three other sensitive bird species with a low probability to forage on-site, they include the loggerhead shrike, Cooper's hawk, and the black-tailed gnatcatcher. The loggerhead shrike usually requires thorny, large shrubs (or small trees) for nesting, Cooper's hawk requires tall trees in extensive forested areas, and the black-tailed gnatcatcher nests in wooded desert wash habitat. None of these species are expected to nest on-site; however, they likely periodically forage on the site. Loggerhead shrikes the Cooper's hawk, and/or the black-tailed gnatcatcher are not listed as threatened or endangered and are not a covered species under the Coachella Valley MSHCP. They are considered a CDFW California Special Concern Species (CSC).

The Prairie falcon and black swift also have a low probability of foraging over the project site, but no suitable nesting habitat (cliffs) is present on site for either species. These species were not observed during the site survey, and implementation of the proposed project is not expected to negatively impact prairie falcons or black swifts. One CSC thrasher species, the Le Conte's thrasher has been known to occur in the project region. The Le Conte's thrasher was not observed during the site survey, but the probability of occurrence at the project site for the Le Conte's thrasher is extremely unlikely.

Additionally, the mountainous region adjacent to the south boundary of the proposed project site has a low potential to provide nesting habitat (cliffs or rocky outcrops) for the prairie falcon, black swift, and/or golden eagle.

7.1.4 Migratory Bird Treaty Act

A variety of common bird species that have no special status designations but are nevertheless protected by the MBTA. This includes virtually all native migratory and resident bird species, including birds already known to occur or have the potential to occur in the vicinity. Representative examples include but are not limited to common raven, common poorwill, greater roadrunner, and verdin. Avoidance of impacts to all nesting migratory and resident birds will likely be a requirement prior to development of the proposed project site. To avoid impacting nesting birds, avoidance of disturbance during the nesting season (generally 1 February 1 through 31 August) is recommended whenever and wherever possible. If avoidance of the nesting season is not feasible, additional impact avoidance and minimization measures may be required: These measures may include, but not necessarily limited to, the following: 1) attendance of and compliance with a project-specific WEAP, 2) pre-construction clearance surveys, 3) biological monitoring, 4) establishment and observance of no disturbance buffer zones around active bird nests found during the daily pre-construction surveys until the young birds have fledged and 5) trash containment and disposal to avoid attracting potential predators.

If nesting birds are found on a project site, work would not likely be permitted near the nest site (i.e., within the no disturbance buffer zone[s] surrounding nests) until young have fledged. While there is no established protocol for nest avoidance, when consulted the CDFW generally recommends avoidance buffers of about 500 feet for birds-of-prey, and 100–300 feet for songbirds. Routine monitoring of nests would document when the young have fledged and when potentially disruptive project activities in the vicinity could be implemented without impacting nesting birds.

7.1.5 Sensitive Species – Mammals

Three bat species, the western yellow bat, big free-tailed bat, and the Townsend's big-eared bat have a low potential to forage over the site. These species forage over water and among trees or in canyons. A golf course is located across the street north/northeast of the project site and may provide a water source for bats flying from the mountains located south of the site. No roosting habitat (untrimmed palm trees, rugged rocky canyon country, caves, mines, tunnels, buildings, or other similar structures for roosting exist on-site. None of these bat species are listed as threatened or endangered and are not a covered species under the Coachella Valley MSHCP. They are considered a CDFW California Special Concern Species (CSC).

Two other mammals, the Palm Springs pocket mouse and Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel have a low potential to occur on the project site. Suitable habitat (e.g. sandy soils in creosote, desert scrub habitat) is present on-site; however, the nearest known occurrence for either species is five miles northwest, north, and northeast of the site. Regardless of its status on the site, the Palm Spring pocket mouse and Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel are each a "covered species" under the Coachella Valley MSHCP, and possible impacts would be mitigated through payment of the MSHCP fee.

7.1.6 Jurisdictional Areas

The project has a small, grated culvert within the northeast corner of the proposed project site. There was no evidence of bed and bank or ordinary highwater mark (OHWM). The culvert seems to have been installed to capture potential sheet flow during a large rain event. Water captured flows into the W. Magnesia Falls Storm Channel. The project site does not support any riparian/riverine areas or exhibit any jurisdictional water features (i.e. bed and bank or OHWM). A jurisdictional delineation is not required within the proposed project site.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The proposed project site lies within vacant parcels with an existing, fenced parking lot is in the northwest portion of the site and the remaining of the proposed project site is a mosaic of disturbed desert scrub vegetation and Sonoran Creosote bush scrub vegetation.

The Project site is not located within a CVMSHCP Conservation Area, or in a Fluvial Sand Transport Special Provision Area. However, the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area lies directly adjacent to the south boundary of the proposed project site. There is an existing fence on the south boundary of the property, at the toe of slope. It was built by the city of Rancho Mirage several years ago, to keep Bighorn Sheep from coming down off the mountains. The proposed project will not impact the fence, it will remain in place, and no construction will occur beyond it.

One listed as federally endangered plant species, the Coachella Valley milk-vetch and has a low potential to occur on the on-site. Therefore, marginally suitable habitat is present on-site for this species. One reptile species, the desert tortoise is also federally/state listed as threatened and has very low potential to occur on-site. Regardless of its status on the site, both the Coachella Valley milk-vetch and desert tortoise are "covered species" under the Coachella Valley MSHCP (CVMSHCP), and possible impacts would be mitigated through payment of the CVMSHCP fee.

The burrowing owl is a species of concern and take of this species under the MBTA is prohibited. Marginally suitable habitat is present on-site and therefore a pre-construction take avoidance surveys is recommended and may be required prior to grading. Burrowing owls are sensitive to excessive noise and activities such as grading and operation of heavy equipment up to 500 feet away and may abandon nests or burrows if/when such activities occur. Therefore, impacts to burrowing owls potentially occurring in adjacent off-site areas must also be considered.

Marginally nesting habitat for various songbirds is present on-site and adjacent to the site. Additionally, suitable nesting habitat is present adjacent to the south boundary of the project. As mentioned, the San Rosa / San Jacinto Mountain Conservation Area lies to the south, and this area may provide nesting habitat for the black swift, golden eagle, and/or prairie falcon. Avoidance of impacts to all nesting migratory and resident birds is required prior to and during development of the proposed project site. To avoid impacting nesting birds on-site and/or within 500 feet of the proposed project site, avoidance of disturbance during the nesting season (generally February 1 through 31 August) is recommended whenever and wherever possible. If avoidance of the nesting season is not feasible, a pre-construction survey for nesting birds will be required to avoid impacts to any active nests within the project site.

General Urban and Wildlands impact avoidance measures are recommended to ensure impacts to the conservation area south of the project site is protected during construction. These additional actions may require, but not necessarily be limited to: 1) implementation of a Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP), 2) pre-construction clearance surveys, 4) construction monitoring (during nesting season and if nests are found on-site and/or adjacent to the site, 5) trash containment and control to avoid or minimize the likelihood of attracting predators.

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APPENDIX A
PLANTS & WILDLIFE OBSERVED

PLANTS OBSERVED	
Scientific Name	**Common Name**
Asteraceae	**Sunflower family**
Ambrosia dumosa	White bur-sage
Ambrosia salsola	Cheesebrush
Encelia farinosa	Brittlebush
Isocoma acradenia	Goldenbush
Boraginaceae	**Borage family**
Cryptantha sp.	Cryptantha
Brassicaceae	**Mustard family**
Sisymbrium sp.*	Sisymbrium
Cactaceae	**Cactus family**
Cylindropuntia echinocarpa	Silver cholla
Cylindropuntia ramosissima	Desert Christmas cactus (pencil cholla)
Chenopodiaceae	**Saltbush family**
Atriplex canescens	Fourwing saltbush
*Salsola tragus**	Russian thistle
Fabaceae	**Pea family**
*Parkinsonia aculeata**	Mexican palo verde
Psorothamnus schottii	Schott indigo bush
Geraniaceae	**Geranium family**
*Erodium cicutarium**	Redstem filaree
Malvaceae	**Mallow family**
*Malva parviflora**	Cheeseweed
Plantaginaceae	**Plantain family**
Plantago ovata	Desert plantain
Polemoniaceae	**Phlox family**
Eriastrum eremicum	Desert woollystar
Zygophyllaceace	**Caltrop family**
Larrea tridentata	creosote bush
Arecaceae	**Palm family**
*Washingtonia robusta**	Mexican fan palm
Poaceae	**Grass family**
*Schismus arabicus**	Arabian schismus
WILDLIFE OBSERVED	
AVES	**BIRDS**
Falconidae	**Falcons**
Falco sparverius	American kestrel
Columbidae	**Pigeons and Doves**
Zenaida macroura	Mourning dove
Trochilidae	**Hummingbirds**
Calypte anna	Anna's hummingbird

Tyrannidae	**Tyrant Flycatchers**
Sayornis saya	Say's phoebe
Corvidae	**Crows and Ravens**
Corvus corax	Common raven
Troglodytidae	**Wrens**
Salpinctes obsoletus	Rock wren
Fringillidae	**Finches**
Carpodacus mexicanus	House finch
MAMMALIA	**MAMMALS**
LAGOMORPHA	***RABBITS, HARES AND PIKA***
Leporidae	**Rabbits and Hares**
Sylvilagus audubonii	Desert cottontail
RODENTIA	***RODENTS***
Sciuridae	**Squirrels**
Ammospermophilus leucurus	White-tailed antelope squirrel
CARNIVORA	***CARNIVORES***
Canidae	**Foxes, Wolves and Dogs**
Canis latrans	Coyote

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APPENDIX B
PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITS

Mirage Commercial Project
Rancho Mirage, Riverside County, California

Photo 1. Representative condition of proposed project site as seen facing west along north boundary of the site.

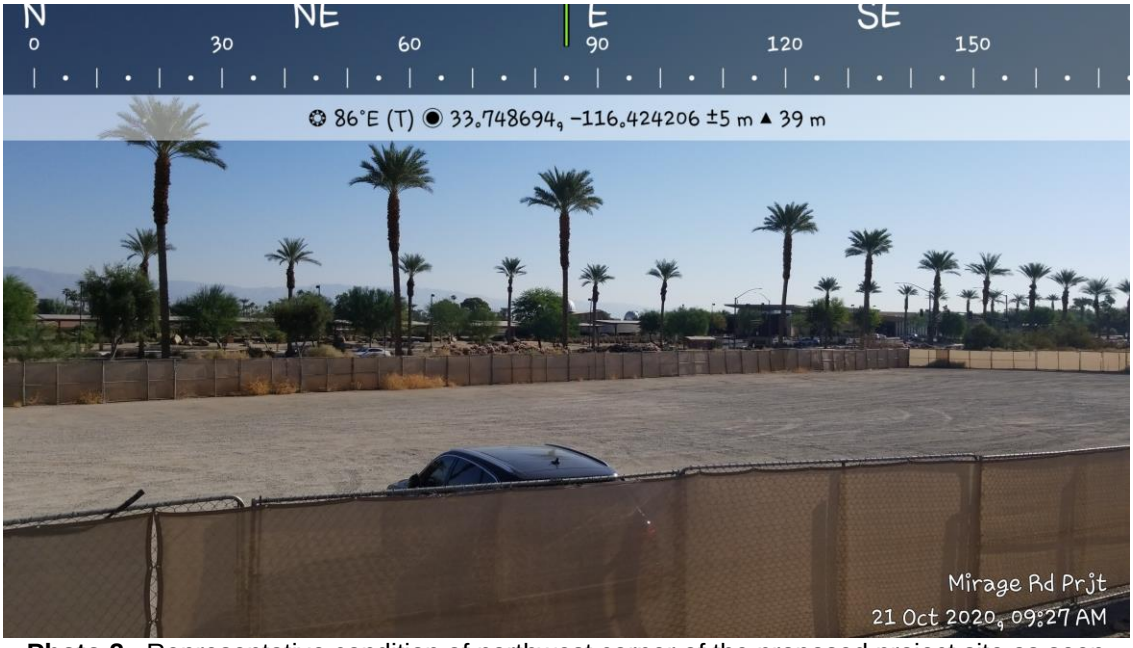

Photo 2. Representative condition of northwest corner of the proposed project site as seen facing east. Photo shows graded area currently being used for a parking lot.

Mirage Road Commercial Project
Rancho Mirage, Riverside County, California

Photo 3. Representative condition of the proposed project site (behind parking lot). View facing south from the southwest corner at the south boundary of site.

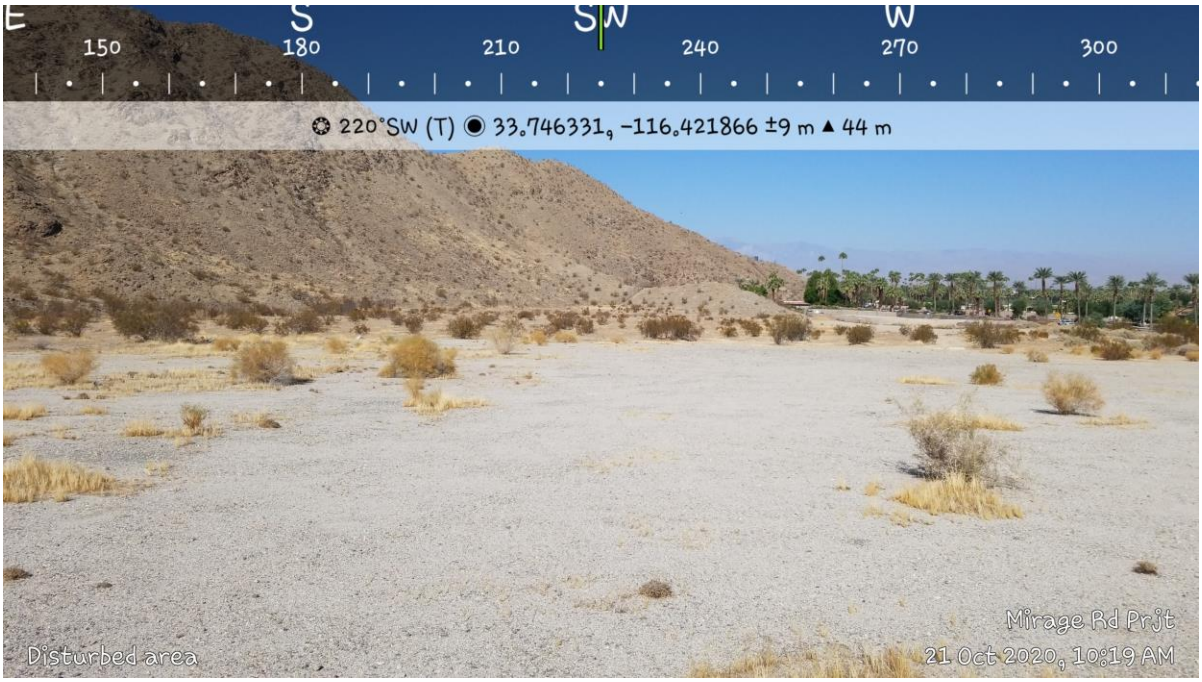

Photo 4. Representative condition of center of the proposed project site as seen facing southwest looking at portion of the Santa Rosa / San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area.

Mirage Commercial Project
Rancho Mirage, Riverside County, California

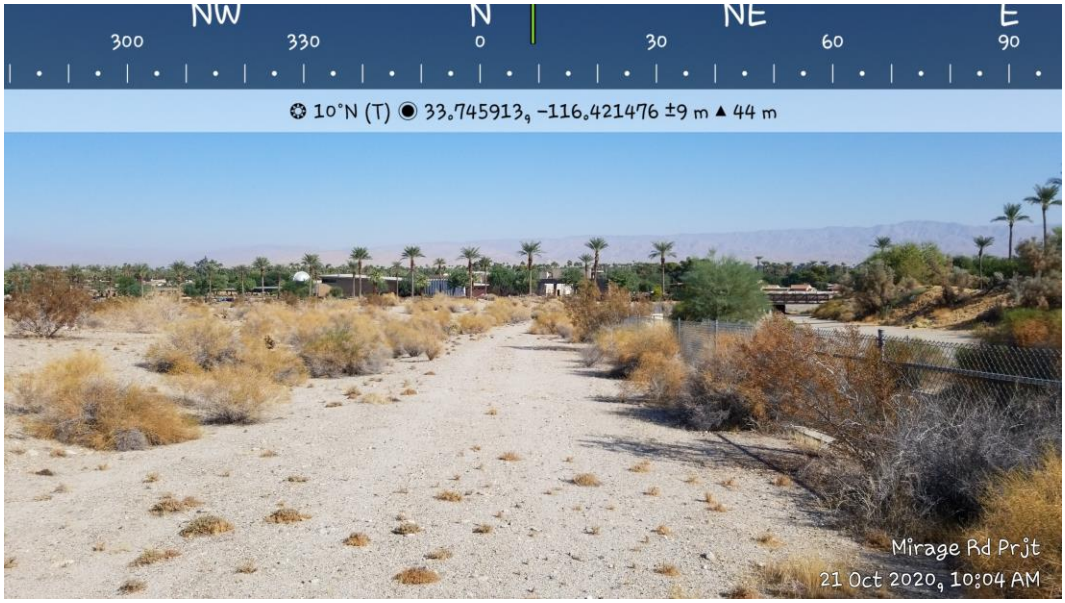

Photo 5. Representative condition of site as seen facing north from the southeast corner of the site. Photo shows the concrete West Magnesia Falls Storm Channel that parallels the east boundary of the site.

Photo 6. Representative condition of the proposed project site as seen facing northwest from the southeast corner of the site.

Photo 7. Representative condition of rocky outcrops off-site (beyond the south boundary) as seen facing south from the south boundary of the site.

Photo 8. Representative condition of rocky outcrops off-site (beyond the south boundary) as seen facing south from the south boundary of the site.